Price regularization fund

3981. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure remunerative prices for the farmers ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to earmark price regularization fund to ensure remunerative prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. The MSP thus fixes is a guaranteed minimum price which the farmers are offered by the designated Central and State agencies in the event market prices tend to fall below that level. However, if the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

Establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence

3982. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence for the promotion of bamboo products ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has received a proposal from the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra, on 26th March, 2007 for setting up of a Bamboo Centre of